

Appl. No. 10/737,307
Atty. Docket No. 9455
Amdt. dated August 31, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 31, 2006
Customer No. 27752

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side ~~being in fluid communication with~~ facing the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising:

- a. a first relatively hydrophobic web and a second relatively hydrophilic nonwoven web;
- b. said relatively hydrophilic nonwoven web extending through said relatively hydrophobic ~~component web~~ web and being disposed on both of said sides of said topsheet;
- c. wherein the first side of the topsheet comprises a plurality of discrete tufts comprising fibers from said relatively hydrophilic nonwoven web, a plurality of said fibers of said tufts being looped fibers such that said looped fibers begin and end at said relatively hydrophilic nonwoven web; and
- d. wherein said tufts exhibit sufficient resistance to compression such that said topsheet has absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 94 mg, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.10 ml/sec when tested by the Gush Acquisition and Rewet Test Method.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the relatively hydrophobic web is a polymer film.

5. Cancelled

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6. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of discrete tufts is uniformly distributed on said laminate web.

7. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said fibers of either said relatively hydrophilic web or said relatively hydrophobic web comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and blends thereof.

8. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said fibers of either said relatively hydrophilic web or said relatively hydrophobic web comprise bicomponent fibers.

9. (Previously presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said fibers of either said relatively hydrophilic web or said relatively hydrophobic web comprise non-round fibers.

10. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 50 mg, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.50 ml/sec when tested by the Gush Acquisition and Rewet Test Method.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 25 mg, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.50 ml/sec when tested by the Gush Acquisition and Rewet Test Method.

12. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising:

a. a relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web and a second relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ web;

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- b. said relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ web extending through said relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web and being disposed on both sides of said topsheet;
- c. wherein the first side of the topsheet comprises a plurality of discrete tufts comprising fibers from said spunbond nonwoven web, a plurality of said fibers of said tufts being looped fibers such that said looped fibers begin and end at said relatively hydrophilic nonwoven web;
- d. wherein said relatively hydrophilic component comprises a spunbond nonwoven web; and
- e. wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 94 mg when tested by the Rewet Test Method, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 0.10 ml/sec when tested by the Fluid Acquisition Test Method.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein said relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web is a nonwoven web.

15. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein said relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web is a polymer film.

16. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein said fibers of the relatively hydrophilic spunbond web comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyester, and blends thereof.

17. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic spunbond web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise bicomponent fibers.

18. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic spunbond web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise non-round fibers.

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19. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the topsheet having a first side and a second side, the first side being a body-facing side and the second side being in fluid communication with the absorbent core, said topsheet further comprising:

- a. a first relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web and a second relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ carded nonwoven web;
- b. said relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ carded nonwoven web being disposed on both sides of said topsheet;
- c. said relatively hydrophilic ~~component~~ carded nonwoven web comprises a ~~carded nonwoven web tufts~~, said tufts comprising looped fibers such that said looped fibers begin and end at said relatively hydrophilic carded nonwoven web; and
- d. wherein said absorbent article exhibits a rewet value of less than about 50 mg when tested by the Rewet Test Method, and a fluid acquisition rate of at least about 1.0 ml/sec when tested by the Fluid Acquisition Test Method.

20. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein the first side of the topsheet comprises a plurality of discrete tufts comprising fibers from said carded nonwoven web.

21. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein said relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web is a nonwoven web.

22. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein said relatively hydrophobic ~~component~~ web is a polymer film.

23. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 19, wherein said fibers of the relatively hydrophilic carded nonwoven web comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyester, and blends thereof.

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24. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 21, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic carded web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise bicomponent fibers.

25. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 21, wherein said fibers of either the relatively hydrophilic carded web or the relatively hydrophobic web comprise non-round fibers.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)